

REMARKS

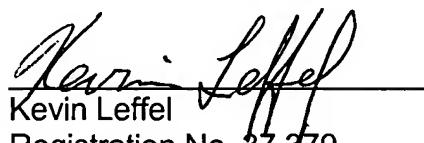
All the claims are amended, except claims 3 and 10. Claims 1-16 remain pending upon entry of this paper.

Claims 1-16 stand restricted to one of Groups 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 121. Applicants hereby elect Group 1, claims 1-14, with traverse. Claims 15 and 16 now include the limitation "blocking and deflecting air currents flowing through said gap away from said sheet as said sheet moves across said gap with a deflector attached to said electrographic apparatus". Applicants respectfully submit that this change eliminates the basis stated for the restriction "that the process as claimed can be practiced by hand since the recited step can be carried out by an operator holding a plate-like member to block and deflect air flow." Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-14 have been amended to remove means plus function claim format. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are of the same or broader scope than originally presented. Claim 16 is amended to correct a minor error in the dependency.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1-16 as one invention.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Leffel
Registration No. 37,379
Attorney for Applicant

NEXPRESS DIGITAL LLC.
2600 MANITOU ROAD
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14653-4165
(585)726-7529